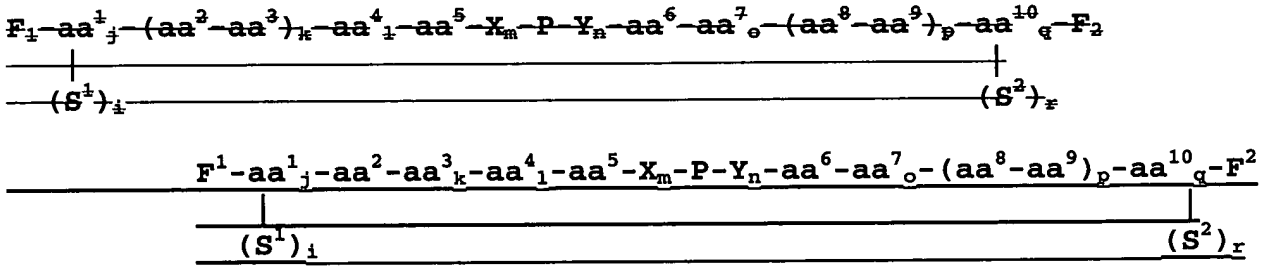
AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Amend the paragraph at page 18, lines 6-24, as follows:

In another preferred embodiment, the binding site (P) ranges from 2 to about 12 amino acids in length. It was a discovery of this invention, that somewhat larger conformation determining regions can sufficiently restrict the degrees of freedom of the indicator molecule, that the fluorophores are suitably quenched regardless of the amino acid sequence of the binding (recognition) domain (P). In one preferred embodiment, these compositions are include the compounds represented by the Formula V:



V

In this formula, P is a peptide comprising a protease binding site and consists of 2 to about 12 amino acids, F^1 and F^2 are fluorophores where F^1 is attached to the amino terminal amino acid and F^2 is attached to the carboxyl terminal amino acid of the composition (excluding spacers). S^1 and S^2, when present, are peptide spacers ranging in length from 1 to about 50 amino acids and S^1, when present, is attached to the amino terminal amino acid, while S^2, when present, is attached to the carboxyl terminal amino acid. The subscripts i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, and r are independently 0 or 1.